

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 and 23 to 28 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 9, 18, 21 and 25 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants held a teleconference on Monday, September 17, 2007 with the Examiner. The Examiner agreed that the Office Action was unclear by not expressly pointing out in the Narad reference the claimed subject matter as expressed herein. Applicants respectfully submit that if a next Office Action is mailed that the next Office Action be made non-final. The Applicants reminded the Examiner that the Examiner's supervisor had previously recommended to having another teleconference in order to expeditiously further prosecution if a new office action is issued.

Claims 1 to 21 and 23 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being obvious over Narad et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,157,955 hereinafter "Narad").

Claim 1 is directed to a network processor that includes a crypto system. The crypto system encrypts data to form ciphered data so that an intended receiver with a correct cryptographic key may decrypt the ciphered data. The network processor also includes an alignment buffer to receive header data and the ciphered data from the crypto system and a switch fabric having a plurality of transmit buffer elements to receive data from the alignment buffer. The alignment buffer provides data to the switch fabric in blocks having a predetermined size.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Narad does not disclose or suggest an alignment buffer to receive header data and the ciphered data from the crypto system.

Narad does not disclose or suggest an alignment buffer nor has the Examiner expressly indicated where in Narad the alignment buffer may be found. The statement by the Examiner that the "alignment buffer is considered an integral part of the "Crypto Processor," which is in direct communication with the alignment buffer" is unclear and confusing. Applicants respectfully submit that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element be disclosed in the cited prior art. If the Examiner is attempting to assert that alignment buffer is inherent, then Applicants respectfully point out that in order for this characteristic to be inherent, it must be "necessarily present" (see MPEP §2112 (IV) and In re Robertson, 169 F.3d 743, 745). Even if the Examiner considers the alignment buffer to be included in ASIC 290, Narad does not disclose or suggest show that crypto processor 246 sends crypto data to ASIC 290 (see column 13, lines 44 to 50 of Narad). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Narad does not disclose or suggest an alignment buffer to receive header data and ciphered data from the crypto system.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Narad reference be withdrawn with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner has taken Official Notice on processing contexts. Applicants respectfully submit that the Official Notice and the accompanying statement that the "buffer elements inherently can only be used by one context at a time" (see page 4 of the Office

Action) does not reflect what is recited in claim 6. Moreover, the Examiner has also failed to establish in Narad that the alignment buffer has buffer elements as recited in claim 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has omitted essential elements needed to establish a *prima facie* rejection, at least because Narad does not contain the claim elements discussed for reasons described herein. Furthermore, it is submitted that the Examiner's failure to point out where in the Narad reference certain claim elements are found constitutes a clear error in the rejection.

Claims 9, 18, 21 and 25 have the limitation of an alignment buffer receiving ciphered data from a crypto system. Applicants submit the Narad reference should also be withdrawn with respect to claims 9, 18, 21 and 25 for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request that the cited art be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as

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specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

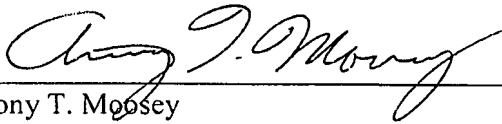
All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (781) 401-9988 ext. 23.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0845 referencing Attorney Docket: Intel-014PUS.

Respectfully submitted,

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